

## FAMILY SAVED BY LAD'S SHRIILL CALL

Lilburn Myers's Residence in Flames When Alarm Was Spread.

## ALL ESCAPED IN NIGHT CLOTHES

Blaze, Reaching Up From Basement, Had Destroyed Dining-Room When Edmund Preston Screamed—Dense Smoke Suffocating, but Everybody Crawled to Safety.

When Edmund Preston, the thirteen-year-old son of Mrs. W. C. Preston, who lives with her brother, Lilburn T. Myers, at 515 West Franklin Street, was aroused from his sleep at 2:22 o'clock yesterday morning by dense smoke which almost suffocated him, the alarm was quickly given to members of the family, all of whom got out in their night clothes just in time to escape death. The fire, which was caused by the furnace, did considerable damage to the basement, and then ate its way through to the dining room above, destroying everything of value. The actual property loss will amount to several thousand dollars, which is covered by insurance, although many priceless heirlooms were completely ruined.

**Had to Crawl on Floor.**  
How long the fire had been raging before the Preston boy was aroused is not known, but at that time the halls were filled with smoke so dense that everybody had to crawl on the floor to a window opening on the back porch. Mr. Myers heard the scream from his nephew. He ran for the boy, picked him up, and then began the difficult trip toward the window. Mrs. Preston, her colored servant, and E. T. D. Myers, Jr., who occupied a room in another part of the house, got out in safety. Thomas Preston, another son, was sleeping directly over the dining room, and Lilburn T. Myers managed to bring him down, though when he reached the air he was almost overcome.

E. T. D. Myers, Jr., seeing that the flames, if not checked, would soon destroy the entire building, braved down from the back porch and raced through Monroe Park to Main and Pine Streets in his night clothes to turn in the alarm. Just as he reached the box, however, he heard the bell, his brother, in the meantime, having staggered to the street, and he returned to the quarters which he sent an alarm to headquarters.

**Firemen Overcome.**  
Engine company No. 6, under Assistant Chief Wise, made a quick run, but when his men reached the house they found the flames, roaring in the dining room and up the basement, had become too intense to handle. Chief Wise's first thought was for the safety of the family, but when he found them safe he led his men through the back porch window with a line of hose toward the dining room, the heat was so intense that no entrance could be effected from the front. Chief Wise and his men fell on the floor as they struggled into the suffocating room, so they smashed the panels in the back door and got air. Another call was sent for the automobile engine, and after working for half an hour the flames were put under control.

All of the antique furniture in the dining room, much rare china and silver was destroyed, together with all of the paintings. These included a portrait of Mr. Myers's grandmother and a Gilbert Stewart portrait. While the property loss is covered by insurance, the heirlooms were priceless, and, of course, can never be replaced.

**All Fixtures Burnt Out.**  
Mrs. Preston and her children were removed to the home of Mrs. E. C. Mayo, nearby, where they spent the night.  
So intense was the heat that all of the gas, water, electric and telephone fixtures were burned out.  
Except for the fact that Edmund Preston's sleeping room door was open, the flames might have gained still greater headway before the family was aroused. Although he was called quickly, Mr. Myers used rare presence of mind, remembering that the danger along the floor there was less danger of suffocation. Chief Wise said yesterday that when he reached the scene the dining room was a "living hell," the flames having devoured everything, and were surging outward. Exactly how the fire originated is not known, further than it was caused in some way by the furnace.

Chief Wise and his men did remarkably fine work, which saved the house from destruction.

## WANTS HONORS BESTOWED

**Taft Asks That Maine Victims' Bodies Be Carried on Warship.**  
Washington, December 17.—President Taft is anxious that the bodies of a number of dead sailors found in the wreck of the Maine, which are soon to be brought North, shall be transported with all possible dignity. He has written a letter to Secretary Meyer expressing the wish that, if possible, the bodies be brought from Havana on one of the large vessels of the navy, conveyed by another vessel.

## HE SHOWS THEM A "TRICK"

**Boy Puts Pistol to Head and Pulls Trigger.**  
Dublin, Ga., December 27.—"Let me show you a trick," said Robinson Leonard, seventeen years old, while with some companions at the home of a friend. He took a pistol from the pocket of another boy, put the muzzle to his own head and pulled the trigger. Death came in a few minutes. Taft said nothing else to indicate he intended to kill himself. His mother died six weeks ago.

## HELD FOR BLACKMAIL

Americans Sought to Extort Money From Fellowcountrymen.

Chicago, December 17.—Four South Side American business men were arrested last night by Police Inspectors James E. Stuart to-day, all charged with attempting to secure \$10,000 from two of Chicago's wealthiest Armenians by means of alleged blackmail.

Garabed T. Pushman and Karekin T. Pushman, rug merchants, are the men against whom the blackmail plot was directed, according to Federal inspectors. The men arrested are Dr. Alfred Gilbert, Sarkis Kedemdjian, Ara P. Chutjian and A. P. Karab Jeffries. Inspector Stuart said Dr. Gilbert and Kedemdjian made confessions. A series of special delivery letters were received by the Pushmans, in which they and their families were threatened with death unless the money was delivered to the writers according to directions. The Pushmans were told to take the money in a package, take it to the back of the hotel, where they would find another letter awaiting them at the clerk's desk, and follow the direction contained in the last letter.

A decoy package was prepared, and under guard of Federal inspectors the Pushmans did as ordered. The men at the hotel desk ordered one of the Pushman brothers to take the money to a South Side drug store. When Pushman reached the drug store, however, plans miscarried and Pushman was told to deliver the money. Information secured by the inspectors at this point, however, led to the arrests.

## WOOD FAVORS CANTEN

Chief of Staff Believes It Should Be Restored.

Washington, December 17.—Major-General Leonard Wood, chief of staff of the army, favors the restoration of the canteen to army posts. He declares in his annual report that the consensus of opinion in the army is that the canteen should be reestablished.

General Wood also makes some recommendations for the garrisoning of Panama Canal forts. He says it is necessary to provide garrisons to protect the canal and insure its neutrality and for that recommends twelve companies of coast artillery, four regiments of infantry at full strength, one battalion of field artillery, one squadron of cavalry and some auxiliary troops.

In recommending short-term enlistments, the chief of staff says the argument that men would not return to the colors in time of war is "an unwarrantable reflection on the patriotism of men who have served the colors and returned to private life."

## EVIDENCE BY DICTAPHONE

Admitted in Trial of Gary Alderman on Bribery Charge.

Crown Point, Ind., December 17.—The dictaphone, its operators occupied much of the attention of the Circuit Court here yesterday in the trial of Alderman Walter Gibson, of Gary, on charges of bribery growing out of the passage of a heating franchise ordinance by the Gary Common Council. Judge Vanderburgh allowed the dictaphone conversation notes to be read into the record. They contained alleged statements by Gibson to T. D. Dean, of Louisville, Ky., who installed the dictaphone, that Mayor Knott needed money. Alderman Castelman (alibi) wanted \$1,000 for his vote. Gibson did not want Alderman Baukus, one of the men indicted for bribery, because the latter was an inductor of Baukus's. That, Gibson would vote for the Dean franchise, and a prediction that Wall Street would "skin" Julian Youchen, a Crown Point banker, who, he said, inherited \$1,000,000 in six months.

## PITY FOR FILIPINOS WASTED

Don't Tight Laces, Hobbie Nor Practice Fashionable Vices.

New York, December 17.—Filipinos are not a tight-laced people, don't hobbie when they walk and aren't asking for any one's pity, according to William F. Pack Governor of the mountain provinces of the Philippine Islands, who said yesterday for Manila. He has been visiting relatives at Centerville, Mich.

"Nobody need pity the poor inhabitants of the Philippines," he said. "Pity, like charity, ought to begin at home; for pity for savages will be wasted. The Filipinos are neither a working nor a tight-laced people, and when they walk they walk; they don't hobbie. It isn't fashionable to hobbie down there."  
"They don't ride in taxis because they haven't any, and going to the opera is a thing unheard of. Their vices aren't reduced vices, and their faults are not excused because they are the faults of a fashionable set."

## JAMES K. HACKETT WEDS

Actor Takes to Wife Miss Beatrice Mary Beckley, of England.

Milwaukee, Wis., December 17.—James K. Hackett, the actor, married Miss Beatrice Mary Beckley, of London, England, in Milwaukee late yesterday, according to announcement today. The ceremony was performed in the office of a local attorney, the nuptial knot being tied by Civil Judge John P. Donovan. The ceremony was witnessed by half a dozen members of Mr. Hackett's theatrical company. Miss Beckley came to Milwaukee from her home in London, England. She is said to be about twenty-four years old. Mr. and Mrs. Hackett left Milwaukee to-day for St. Louis.

## DAM SWEEP AWAY

Could Not Withstand Strain of Recent Heavy Rains.

Augusta, Ga., December 17.—Heavy rains in this section of the State Saturday and Sunday increased the flood-water in the valley so that the big dam of the Carolina Light and Power Company, two miles from Langley, in Alcon county, could not withstand the strain, and last night at 10 o'clock broke through. The entire dam and power plant was swept away, leaving only one large granite standing. The loss is estimated at \$15,000.

## BREAKERS AHEAD FOR PENSION BILL

Sharp Division Among Senators Over Pending Legislation.

## NOT SO POPULAR AFTER ELECTION

Gore Contends That With Campaign and Politics Proposal to Give Money to Old Soldiers Will Lose Favor—Busy Week in Congress Promised.

Washington, D. C., December 17.—A sharp division of sentiment among Senators regarding service pension legislation, protests against large congressional expenditures, the Russian treaty question, continued investigations and the urgency deficiency bill will keep Congress busy this week. Both houses will adjourn next Thursday until January 3.

The Sherwood so-called dollar-a-day pension bill, which the House has passed, probably will not find an easy way in the Senate. Senator Gore, of Oklahoma, a leading Democratic member of the Pensions Committee, already has started an inquiry into the possibility of postponing action until the next session, when there will be no presidential election. In the House proceedings on the Sherwood bill, the liberalists to the Mexican and Civil War veterans, aggregating possibly \$75,000,000 ultimately, was a conspicuous factor, and Senator Gore contends that the subjects will not be so popular in Congress after the presidential election. Senator McCumber, chairman of the Pensions Committee, while not committing himself to the Sherwood bill, to-day expressed the opinion that no general pension legislation would be enacted during this session.

The House Democrats will caucus on some pending questions, probably soon after the recess. The leaders of the House are carrying out a program must be maintained, that some of the demands of committees and Democratic members for appropriations must be refused, but in such a way as to avoid party dissension.

**Situation Complicated.**  
The pension bill, already passed by the House, carrying \$100,000,000 to \$75,000,000; the demand of the Public Buildings Committee for an omnibus measure to carry between \$25,000,000 and \$30,000,000, and other large drafts on the Treasury have complicated the situation. Democratic Leader by willow carrying from the public buildings bill shall not be put through. The work of the investigating committees also is piling up expense accounts.

The tariff board report is expected from the president this week, but the Ways and Means Committee probably will not recommend action on the wool or other schedules until after the recess, but then will proceed vigorously. The Democrats were not agreed last summer as to the raw wool tariff, many favoring free raw wool. The question of trust legislation and other things will be considered in caucus.  
All the witnesses who will be heard in the defense of Senator Lorimer except Mr. Lorimer himself will appear before the Senate investigating committee this week, and the committee then will adjourn to meet after the Christmas recess. Mr. Lorimer will testify under oath for the first time. The steel trust investigating committee of the House and the Senate Committee on Interstate Commerce, which is investigating trust problems, will be in session this week.

## TANG SHAO YI ARRIVES

Representative of Premier Met by Great Concourse of People.

Shanghai, December 17.—Tang Shao Yi, the representative of Premier Yuan Shi Kai, accompanied by his suite, arrived here this afternoon, and was met by a great concourse of people, including the foreign consuls.

The streets were densely crowded with people, who, however, appeared apathetic.  
Tang Shao Yi made a formal visit to Dr. Wu Ting Fang, the foreign secretary in the revolutionary cabinet, and agreed to the proposal that the meetings of the government and republican delegates shall commence tomorrow at the town hall. Each side is represented by five delegates, who include Tang Shao Yi and Dr. Wu Ting Fang.

Dr. Wu made a formal complaint that the Premier Yuan had violated the armistice by attacking the revolutionary forces in Shan-Si, Shen-Si and Anhwei. Tang promised to convey the protest to the Premier.

Grave reports have reached here from the interior that trade and commerce are at a standstill and economic conditions are becoming desperate. Travel is extremely dangerous because of looting and discontent among the soldiers, who are on half pay.  
In the northern part of Kiang-Su, Anhwei and Kiang-Si the floods continue, and millions of natives are starving. Unless peace is arranged and relief here this afternoon, and was met by a great concourse of people, including the foreign consuls.

**Ordered to Go Join Fleet.**  
Charleston, S. C., December 17.—Fifteen destroyers of the Eighth, Ninth and Tenth divisions, now stationed at the Charleston Navy Yard, have been ordered to New York and Newport to join the Atlantic fleet. The vessels will leave Charleston on December 27.

## Unsettled Weather Coming This Week

Washington, December 17.—There are strong indications that the coming week will be marked by rain or snow and generally unsettled and disagreeable weather throughout the United States, according to a bulletin issued to-night by the Weather Bureau.  
"Temperatures generally," says the bulletin, "will undergo decided changes, and the precipitation, which will be in the form of snow and rain-snow, will be above the normal. A disturbance that is now over the Western plateau will advance and reach the Eastern States by Tuesday night or Wednesday. Another disturbance will appear in the far West about Thursday, cross the Rocky Mountains Friday, the Great Central Valley Saturday or Sunday, and the Eastern States at the beginning of Christmas week. These disturbances will be attended by general precipitation and decided changes in temperature."

## BLACK HAND IN COLUMBUS

Police Find Evidence After Killing of Italian.

Columbus, O., December 17.—That an organized branch of the Italian Black Hand exists and flourishes in this city is believed by the police, following the killing of Gaetano Sigano this afternoon by Peter Albanese, cousin of Sergeant Albanese, of the Columbus police force.

Albanese confessed to Chief of Police Cagier this afternoon that he killed Sigari after the latter several times threatened to kill him and kidnap his wife if he did not give him \$50. Sigari is said to have declared that the money was not for himself, but for the support of a mysterious brotherhood, the existence of which many hints have of late been heard among local Italians.  
"Several days ago," said Albanese in his confession, "Sigari came to me and demanded \$50. When I refused the money he said I should die. He said he would kill my wife, and would not even wait until I was dead, but would take her by force, supported in his efforts by his 'brotherhood.' This morning I met him, and he again demanded \$50. I refused, and he attacked me with a butcherknife. I drew my revolver and fired twice. At the second shot he fell dead."

After he killed the Italian, Albanese attempted to escape, but was overtaken. Sigari was thirty-five years old and employed in the Hooking Valley Railroad hands of the Columbus and Xenia. He was married and has a wife and five children. He has been employed for the past eleven years. He will be arraigned for a preliminary hearing here to-morrow.

## LAST SCENE IN TRAGEDY

Four Victims of Murderer Laid at Rest Side by Side.

Troy, N. Y., December 17.—The last scene in the Bloomingville tragedy was enacted this afternoon, when the bodies of Mrs. Mary Morner, her son, Arthur, and two daughters, Blanche and Edith, who were murdered Tuesday noon, presumably by an Italian farm hand, were laid at rest side by side in the cemetery at Defreestville. More than 5,000 persons congregated about the house or morbidly explored the barn, where the bodies were found previous to the funeral, which was held at noon. Many of the crowd brought lunches with them, and the aspect in some respects took on the aspect of a farmers' picnic.

The bodies were laid out in the parlor, that of the son, Arthur, in an oak coffin, and those of his mother and sisters in white caskets. There was a profusion of flowers. For two hours the crowd was permitted to file through the bodies of the dead. Then the doors were ordered closed, and the required the combined efforts of the police and twelve assistants to keep back the throngs who had not yet viewed the remains. Great confusion ensued, and in the crush several women fainted.

The services were conducted by Rev. J. B. Rogers, pastor of the Bloomingville Reformed Church, of which the four members of the Morner family belonged.

## Suspect Arrested.

North Adams, Mass., December 17.—An Italian, whose description tallies with that of Edward Donato, the farm hand, sought in connection with the murder of four members of the Morner family in Defreestville, N. Y., was arrested here to-day. He is held pending the arrival of officers from Albany. The man, who said his name was Antonio Gerato, was greatly exhausted, apparently from a long tramp on the road.

## SUGAR PENSION PLAN

Company Will Provide for Employees in Their Old Age.

New York, December 17.—Stockholders of the American Sugar Refining Company will be called upon at the next annual meeting to approve a plan to provide pensions to the company's 7,500 officers and employees. Directors of the company, it was announced to-night, have worked out details of the plan, which include provisions for retiring employees over sixty-five years of age or after thirty years of service. An appropriation of \$300 is suggested as the nucleus of the pension fund.

No pension under the proposed plan, will be less than \$20 a month, and none will exceed \$5,000 a year. In the case of women, the age limit is set at sixty and the term of service at twenty-five years. Should the plan be ratified, male employees who have served the company thirty years and women twenty-five years may be retired without regard to age. The amount of the pension will be "a sum annually equivalent to 1 per cent. of the average annual wage or salary during the ten years preceding retirement multiplied by the years of service."

All officers and employees of the company or of any corporation owned or controlled by the company, the announcement states, will be eligible for the pension benefits.

## VANDERBILT AND MRS. MCKIM WED

Their Marriage Is Celebrated in Reigate, England.

## NAMES HAD BEEN LONG CONNECTED

Groom Chief Heir of Cornelius Vanderbilt's Millions and a Divorcee—Bride Divorced Wife of Dr. Smith Hollins McKim—Reports of Wedding Had Been Denied.

London, December 17.—Alfred Gwynne Vanderbilt and Mrs. Smith Hollins McKim, formerly Miss Margaret Emerson, of Baltimore, were married at Reigate at 1 o'clock this afternoon, the bans having been announced in the customary manner. They have gone on a motor wedding trip.

For several years past the names of Alfred G. Vanderbilt, the chief heir of Cornelius Vanderbilt's millions, and Mrs. Smith Hollins McKim have been closely associated. At various times it was reported that they were soon to be married. The bride, who is accounted the richest of the younger set of millionaires, was born in 1877. He married Miss Ellen French on January 11, 1901. His wife was granted an interlocutory decree of divorce on May 25, 1908, their son, William Vanderbilt, remaining in the mother's custody. The divorce was made final three months later. It was said at the time that Mr. Vanderbilt settled \$1,500,000 on his former wife.

The name of Mrs. McKim, the divorced wife of Antonin Ruiz, a former member of the Cuban legation at Washington, came up in the trial of the suit. Mrs. Ruiz committed suicide in London on May 15, 1909, the manner of her death being suppressed for a considerable time.

Mrs. McKim is the daughter of Isaac E. Emerson, of Baltimore, and the divorced wife of Dr. Smith Hollins McKim, of New York and Baltimore. Mrs. McKim obtained a divorce from her husband, who threatened various suits before the courts, but early in February, 1910, an agreement was signed bringing to an end all pending or possible litigation involving Dr. McKim, Kim's former wife and Alfred G. Vanderbilt. The attorneys for Dr. McKim stated at the time that Dr. McKim had agreed to end the litigation relative to the alleged alienation of his wife's mind. It was also stated that Dr. McKim in consideration of the settlement was to receive a lump sum of money in semi-annual installments. Alfred G. Vanderbilt, who sailed for London November 29 last, reiterated his denial that he was soon to be married. Mrs. McKim has been abroad for several months.

## Surprise to Baltimore Society.

[Special to The Times-Dispatch.]  
Baltimore, Md., December 17.—Society circles of Baltimore were surprised to-day, when they learned that Margaret Emerson McKim, who divorced Dr. Smith Hollins McKim, in Reno, Nevada, was married to-day at Reigate, Surrey, England, to Alfred Gwynne Vanderbilt, son of the famous New York Vanderbilt family, and a multimillionaire. Eighty years ago, in Baltimore, many Richmonds, the marriage of Alfred G. Vanderbilt to Margaret Emerson to Dr. Smith Hollins McKim. Dr. McKim was educated at Bellevue High School, near Lynchburg, Va., and was graduated from the Department of Medicine, of the University of Virginia, in 1898.

At the time of her marriage, Mrs. McKim obtained a divorce from her husband, and from that time on her name was linked with that of Alfred G. Vanderbilt. Mrs. McKim visited her mother and father in this city last winter, and when asked about the engagement she denied it.

Captain Emerson, Mrs. McKim's father, was divorced by his wife, Mrs. Emelle Emerson, last March, and in April Mrs. McKim went abroad. Captain Emerson and Mrs. Emelle Emerson each received a cablegram from London to-day announcing the marriage. The cable message read: "Margaret Emerson McKim married to-day at Reigate, Surrey, with love. (Signed) 'MARGARET.'"

Reports of the engagement were denied to the last. Even when Mr. Vanderbilt sailed for England two weeks ago, he denied that he would wed Mrs. McKim. Captain Emerson, when asked if he was aware of the approaching marriage, admitted that he was one of the few who knew that he was soon to be the father-in-law of Alfred G. Vanderbilt.

Mrs. Emerson also admitted that she was aware of the engagement of her daughter to Vanderbilt.  
"It is not a surprise to me," declared Mrs. Emerson, "and I do hope the newspapers will not make such a fuss over it. My daughter informed me some time ago that she would wed Alfred Vanderbilt about the middle of December, and I am glad that their plans were kept secret. The wedding was a very quiet affair."  
"I anxiously awaited the cable message, and was glad when I received it. 'When did you last see Mr. Vanderbilt?'"

"That has been some time ago, Mr. Vanderbilt is a very fine gentleman, I know that my daughter is very, very happy."

Mrs. Emerson said that it is certain that Mr. and Mrs. Vanderbilt will make their home in New York City, and probably will live at the Hotel Vanderbilt, the new \$5,000,000 hotel recently built by Alfred Vanderbilt.

They are married and Mr. Vanderbilt is my son-in-law, and that is all there is to it," declared Captain Emerson.

## COLONY FOR CHICAGO RICH

Plan a \$2,000,000 Hotel and Many Homes on the Lake Front.

Chicago, December 17.—A new colony of rich men is planned on the shore of Lake Michigan, in the section bounded by Lincoln Park, Pearson Street and Lincoln Park Boulevard. In the northern part of this section Mrs. Potter Palmer, Harold F. McCormick and other notables have mansions. Among the new structures planned is a hotel on the block bounded by the Lake Shore Drive, Lincoln Park Boulevard and Walton Place. The hotel will be one of the most luxurious in the city. It is designed to be the permanent home of the growing group of wealthy men who cling to hotel life, who are a large percentage of 400 feet, this house is estimated to cost more than \$2,000,000.

Further east in the same block expensive apartment buildings will be erected. Thirty-two apartments will be provided, each renting at \$4,000 to \$5,000 a year. Between the hotel and the apartment house, Benjamin H. Marshall, of Marshall & Fox, and Gertrude J. Holbrook will put up residences. On the next block south Harold McCormick and W. J. Chalmers have planned to build apartment buildings.

Among the distinctive features of the new colony is to be an automobile bus line modeled after the Riverside Drive buses of New York.

## BUSY PREPARING EVIDENCE

District Attorney's Office Getting "Dynamiting" Data in Shape.

Indianapolis, Ind., December 17.—Anxious not to delay the government's investigation into the dynamite conspiracy, detectives and employees of the district attorney's office were busy yesterday preparing evidence to be presented to the Federal grand jury. On the side of hearing a few stenographers and clerks formerly employed in the headquarters of the International Association of Bridge and Structural Iron Workers, where John J. McNamara, the secretary, was arrested, had his office on the grand jury up to date on the preliminaries of its work. Tomorrow morning a number of witnesses are to be examined. The jury probably will adjourn on Thursday afternoon for the Christmas holidays, whose connection with the dynamite case is regarded as vital is being watched by the government. This scrutiny applies to witnesses in cities scattered throughout the country. It is feared the government has put more machinery in motion in this respect than in any similar case in recent years.

## TAFT PARDONS AN INDIAN

Convinced That More Miller Is Innocent of an Oklahoma Murder.

Atlanta, Ga., December 17.—Mose Miller, an Indian serving a life sentence for murder, has been released from the Federal penitentiary upon a telegraphed pardon from President Taft. Miller had been in prison since 1907. He was convicted on the charge of having gone with another Indian to a store in Oklahoma. Being interrupted in their work by a white man, they killed him. Miller was convicted of the killing though he constantly protested his innocence, while admitting that he was one of the two who robbed the store. Application for pardon was made to the President a year ago and was turned down.

Judge W. R. Hammond, of Atlanta, became interested in the case and went to Washington to see President Taft. Judge Hammond convinced the President of the Indian's innocence and the pardon was granted. Upon receipt of the President's message, Warden Moyer released Miller, who took a train for Stillville, Okla.

## SMITH TIRED OF HIS NAME

Because There Are 111 Others in Middletown—Would Be Stanwood.

Middletown, N. Y., December 17.—Because there are 111 Smiths in Middletown, without counting the children, and eight of the number bear the name of George, George E. Smith, a life insurance man, has applied to the courts for the removal of his name to George E. Stanwood. Mr. Smith thinks that half of the 111 other Smiths have been receiving his mail, and as he is a business man, he likes to get his mail as quickly as possible.

The other 111 Smiths, who are presumed to be proud of the ancient name, think about the matter can only be surmised.

## TO CALL RUEF AS A WITNESS

Ex-Mayor Schmitz's Trial to Begin in January.

San Francisco, Cal., December 17.—Ex-Mayor Eugene E. Schmitz will be brought to trial some time next month on one of the fourteen indictments pending against him as a result of the bribery-graft investigation in this city for the great graft of the Abraham Ruef, former political boss, now serving a fourteen-year sentence in the penitentiary, will be called as a witness against him.

The Schmitz cases were called before Superior Judge William P. Lawler yesterday, and the district attorney was allowed until January 5 to select the charge on which to go to trial.

## RETAIN MAINE COFFERDAM!

Veterans Want to Fill It and Build a Marble Monument.

Havana, December 17.—The veterans of Cuba's war for independence held a meeting last night and adopted a resolution requesting President Taft to take whatever action may be necessary to have the cofferdam around the Maine remain where it is after the wreck has been removed. The veterans propose to fill in the cofferdam and erect on top of it a marble monument to the victims of the Maine.

## JURORS GIVE PLAINTIFF FEES

Condition of Woman They Give Verdict Against Touches Hearts.

Bowling Green, O., December 17.—After Judge Baldwin had directed a verdict for the defendants in a \$5,000 alienation damage suit of Mrs. Viola Cook against Charles and Clara Cook, the hearts of the jurors were so touched by the hopeless condition of the plaintiff, who is a cripple, that they went to her in a body and gave her their fees in the case.

## TAFT TAKES FIRM HOLD OF RUSSIAN PASSPORT ROW

Determined to Veto Sulzer Resolution if It Passes Senate.

## LOWER HOUSE TO BE IGNORED

President Believed Already to Have Notified Czar, in Polite Diplomatic Language Possible, of Impending Abrogation of Treaty—Holds He Can Handle Situation.

Washington, December 17.—President Taft called the five members of his Cabinet now in Washington to the White House to-night, and conferred with them from 10 o'clock until midnight on the Russian treaty situation. Nothing was given out for publication at the conclusion of the conference, but it is understood that the attitude of the administration was finally decided upon and messages drafted to be sent to the Capitol to-morrow, in which, it is said, the Senate will be urged to adopt a resolution abrogating the treaty of 1832 couched in language that will not be offensive to the St. Petersburg government. Attending the conference were Secretary of State Knox, Secretary of the Navy, Secretary of Agriculture Wilson, Secretary of the Treasury MacVeagh and Attorney-General Wickersham. Secretaries Stimson, Fisher and Hitchcock are out of the city.

**Taft Taken Hand.**  
Washington, December 17.—The Russian treaty situation cleared materially to-day, and the administration plans for the abrogation of the 1832 pact with the St. Petersburg government became more definitely outlined. President Taft, it is said, has indicated emphatically that he would veto the Sulzer resolution instantly if passed through the Senate to-morrow without modification. Nothing that can be construed as an offense to Russia will be permitted, it is said, to help it.

According to plans announced to-night, Mr. Taft to-morrow will send two communications to the Capitol, one a message addressed to the Senate to be considered in executive session, and the other a letter directed to Chairman Cullum of the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations. In these communications Mr. Taft, it is said, will outline his attitude plainly and will call pointed attention to the fact that international relations are not lightly to be dealt with.

Despite the advice of certain of the Republican leaders of the House that the lower branch of Congress should be considered in the matter, President Taft to-night was said to be determined to ignore the House entirely in his further dealings with the Russian situation.

Senate leaders expect to hear to-morrow that the President, through American Ambassador Guild, at St. Petersburg, already has notified Russia of the impending abrogation of the treaty. This notice is believed to have been drafted in the polioast of the House and Senate leaders, and in terms of diplomatic language, and have stated that the American people had come to regard the treaty as obsolete in many of its provisions. The expiration of the treaty is fixed for January 1, 19